

therefore had more leisure to devote to reading, and was never weary of parading this in his letters. The favorite topic of the old men was the tenets of the Christian belief as viewed from a historical and rationalistic standpoint. The correspondence seems to have delighted Jefferson. Even the first of his letters to Adams shows a buoyancy to which he had for some months been a stranger. "I think little of them (politics), and say less. I have given up newspapers, in exchange for Tacitus and Thucydides, for Newton and Euclid, and I find myself much the happier. Sometimes indeed I look back to former occurrences and remembrances of our old friends and fellow laborers, who have fallen before us. Of the signers of the Declaration of Independence I see now living not more than half a dozen on your side the Potomac, and on this side myself only. You and I have been wonderfully spared, myself with remarkable health and considerable activity of body and mind. I am on horseback three or four hours every day, visit three or four times a year a possession I have ninety miles distant, performing the winter journey on horseback. I walk little, however, a single mile being too much for me, and I live in the midst of my grandchildren, one of whom has lately promoted me to be a great-grandfather."

War with England was declared in June of this year. Jefferson in his correspondence showed himself thoroughly in accord with the administration. As disturbing an element as was war in his theories, he felt that the present one was justifiable—a feeling which was strengthened by the recollection of British wantonness toward American shipping during his own second administration. He outlined what seemed to him the most advantageous plan of campaign for the American forces. He wrote to Colonel Duane: "I see as you do the difficulties and defects we have to encounter in war, and should expect disasters if we had an enemy on land capable of inflicting them. \* \* \* The acquisition of Canada this year, as far as the neighborhood of Quebec, will be a mere matter of marching, and will give us experience for the attack of Halifax the next, and the final expulsion of England from the American continent. Halifax